GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2382
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2006
PROMOTION OF TOURISM IN CERTAIN FOREST AREAS
Gandhi Smt. Maneka

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the bio-diversity areas identified in the country, location-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether certain bio-diversity areas in Karnataka are being promoted as tourist destinations by the Forest Department of Karnataka;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) While no specific areas have been identified, natural biodiversity occurs in forest areas throughout the country, some of which having the status of protected areas.

(b)&(c) The Karnataka Forest Department has evolved a policy for fostering responsible Wilderness Tourism. The State has reported that no specific biodiversity area is being promoted as tourist destination, since all protected areas and reserve forests in the State are rich in biodiversity.

(d) Action has been taken for evolving an ecotourism strategy so that benefits of tourism can be shared with local people.